

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

April 5, 2012
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Englund, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Howard Katz, Merle Keeney, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Eileen Rasnack, Diana Thompson, Blake Werner, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Heyden, Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Terri Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald, Department of Parks & Community Services,

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Phillips, Senior Information & Assistance; Erin Rycraft, Evergreen Care Network

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Rasnack who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Beverly Heyden, Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Terri Wilson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 1, 2012

There was a motion to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded. The motion was voted on unanimously to approve the minutes.

SENIOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE RESOURCES [PRESENTATION]

Chair Rasnack introduced Erin Rycraft from Evergreen Care Network and Linda Phillips from Senior Information & Referral who will each be talking about the services their programs provide.

Ms. Rycraft is a case manager for Evergreen Care Network (ECN) and so is in the field seeing clients. Their target population is disabled, chronically ill, elderly, and caregivers. Evergreen Care Network provides services in East King County and they currently have 1201 clients in which 581 of these live in Bellevue. Of their clients 42% speak English, 41% Russian, and 17% other languages. They are funded by Title 19 & Citizen Act dollars and their current budget is 1.87 million. They have 15 case managers in which 6 are Russian speaking.

They provide three kinds of case management that they provide: 1) Core Case Management – clients received from DSHS and the majority of them are on Medicaid. They participate in the program called COPEs; 2) Discretionary Case Management – these clients have multiple service needs such as housing, transportation, etc. They provide in home assessment and work with the community agencies, physicians, and any other community or health care personnel to provide for this person. They also provide ongoing support with such things as elder care, financial issues, long-term care, etc.; 3) Family Caregiver – we provide support and information to caregivers in order to reduce family stress and to enable clients to stay in their home. Both the caregiver and receiver need to be over 18 years old, and the caregiver is a non-paid caregiver.

There is an information and services piece to ECN services. Anyone can call ECN's Information and Assistance social workers with questions or concerns on behalf of someone who may need help. They can provide community resources, makes referrals and assist with accessing services. They get referrals from senior centers, caregivers, hospitals, fire & rescue, adult protective, among others.

ECN can help access a wide variety of services for older adults such as respite, mental health, substance abuse, financial & legal, assistance referral, physician, transportation, home delivered meals, housing options, estate & housing planning, etc.

Mr. Katz stated that the Russian community has their own organization (Circle of Friends) and has heard that they have access to affordable housing particularly Section 8 housing. Ms. Rycraft said she is aware of this but works on the ground level and she doesn't personally deal with this and does not coordinate with agencies, just individuals.

Mr. Keeney asked about referrals and whether they do anything proactive to make sure people are aware of Evergreen Care Network. Ms. Rycraft stated that their office does provide outreach but being onsite at different places really gets the word out as to what we do. He also asked whether they market to individuals? She stated that their marketing is limited. Betsy Cruse is the contact in their agency for marketing.

Ms. Gray said that Evergreen Care Network puts out a lot of information as to what services are available. People just don't seem to pay attention to these publications until they need the services. If people are isolated then the referrals usually come through fire departments or adult protective services.

Ms. Thompson asked whether they are giving presentations within Bellevue. Ms. Rycraft said she doesn't have that specific information with her but will get it to her.

Mr. Megargel asked whether they refer people to the private sector? Ms. Rycraft stated that they do.

Linda Phillips, Senior Services, Senior Information and Assistance, said that they provide similar services but will tell how they differ. They have the Gateway Program, formerly known as the Gatekeeper Program in which concerned family, friends, neighbors can provide the older person with the Senior Information & Assistance number; or make the call themselves if you

think the older person is unable or unlikely to call. They give presentations about the Gateway program to Fire and Police Departments so that they know who to refer people to that they come in contact with.

When the Senior Information and Assistance staff makes a call to an older adult that someone is concerned about, I tell them that someone is concerned about them and I can connect them to resources they may need. Then they will send them resources in the mail and will follow up with a 2nd call. We also will refer to private companies if needed.

Their agency maintains the Senior Information & Assistance database. If complaints are received about a service on the list they assess whether they should stay on the list or be discontinued. If someone calls they are given three resource options so they can research each option and choose one for themselves.

The Caregiver Outreach and Support program visits Senior Centers across the Eastside. We get calls from friends, neighbors, and families with concerns about caregiving.

Senior Information and Assistance also has the Minor Home Repair program in which low income homeowners can get minor repairs done to their home. They pay \$10/hour plus materials. It is great for adults aging in place. We no longer do grab bars, replace toilets or do ramps because of the excessive amount of paperwork that HUD now requires for these projects. However, other programs, such as Catholic Community Services, will do these kinds of repairs through their Volunteer Chore program.

Mr. Katz called attention to the fact that when he used to call 2-1-1 and ask for Senior Services that they would automatically transfer to their number. They no longer do this. It would be great if 2-1-1 would continue automatically transferring callers rather than to just give you the phone number you needed.

Ms. Thompson asked where they have given the presentations for the Gateway program, or where they would like to give their presentation? Ms. Phillips stated that she would like to give the presentations to the neighborhood associations. They have done them at senior centers and housing complexes. Presentations are about an hour long. Mr. Katz stated that Cheryl Kuhn is the staff member in the City of Bellevue that works with neighborhood associations.

Ms. Rasnack thanked both of the presenters for all of the work that they do.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Outreach (reported by Merle Keeney)

The committee has been working hard to create a plan to bridge the gap of getting information resources to people who need that information. The committee has developed a list of eight ways of connecting people to resources and will be working to pare that down and assign champions for each initiative.

B. Transportation/Housing (reported by Ms. Grote and Ms. Kimball)

The committee recently visited the traffic operations office on the top floor in City Hall. We talked with Kurt Latt who deals with pedestrian safety and crossings and also Raid Tirhi who is a traffic engineer. Bellevue has state-of-the-art system to monitor signals and pedestrian needs. The committee asked staff if they were thinking about older adults when it comes to crossing times, safety, etc. The City of Bellevue has a new intersection sensor system that is currently in place at 30% of the city intersections. As funding becomes available more of the signals will be moved over to the new program. Staff indicated that they can change the timing for the crosswalks which is now at 4-7 feet/second. However, staff also indicated that they have done extensive observation and pedestrian counts and have not found that they need to be increased at this time. Crosswalk safety is a big concern for the City. They have evaluated the lighted crossings and have found the in pavement lights to be high maintenance. Studies have found that the new lighted signs may work better. The City will be installing some at key crossings in the near future.

Ms. VonWald stated that the Network will have an opportunity to give input on the Downtown Transportation Plan. She will keep the group posted on the ways input can be given.

Ms. Grote and Ms. Kimball helped to get the Bellevue Transit Plan survey out. Franz Loewenherz stated that they had received more surveys from the over 60 population.

Ms. Grote noted some upcoming events:

- April 10 at Crossroads Community Center – the city transportation planners will work with the community
- April 26 from 4-7:00 there will be an Open House on Light Rail at City Hall
- April 19 – the last neighborhood meeting at City Hall

C. Advocacy (reported by Ms. Thompson)

At last month's BNOA meeting, Rob McKenna talked about ongoing training for bank employees to identify possible elder abuse. This relates to legislation that the BNOA supported.

There wasn't an Advocacy committee meeting this month but here is a status update. The State hasn't approved a budget as of yet. There is no proposal to increase State revenue. In both the House and Senate proposed budgets seniors have done very well. The big issues that could cause it to fall apart are health plans for teachers and retirement plans.

Redistricting has occurred. Representative Adam Smith is hosting a meeting on Monday at Kent Senior Center with the focus on senior issues. Both Ms. Thompson and Ms. Grote will be attending. If you have any questions for Representative Smith please get them to one of them.

Ms. Grote said she brought a new AARP resource flyer and it is on the table entitled “You’ve Earned a Say”. AARP is asking the public to give them input on Social Security. Please take one.

D. Quality of Life Adhoc (reported by Bob Megargel)

At the BNOA retreat, Mr. Megargel shared the 13 parts of a person’s life. The committee suggested that the BNOA use this list to assess our focus.

He also stated that every year in April there is a Cost of Care Survey that is developed by Genworth Financial. It is a state by state and city by city comparison of care costs. Washington State is in the top ten most costly states to provide care. The survey includes nursing homes, assisted living, home care, in-home services, etc. Only private pay services are included in this survey.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

A. Parks & Community Services Board – no report

B. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (reported by Alex O’Reilly)

She didn’t make it to the last meeting but noted that Hopelink received a Growing Transit Communities grant. They recently had the first event using these funds and there are other events being scheduled. She will forward the event information when she gets it.

C. Eastside Human Services Forum (reported Alex O’Reilly)

Save the date – June 7th from 7:30-9:30 at South Bellevue Community Center is the EHSF Annual meeting. The demographer from King County will be there to give a county-wide perspective. There will also be breakout groups, in which older adults is one of the areas of focus.

D. Eastside Time Bank – no report

E. Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council – no report

STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald asked whether the BNOA group wants to participate in the EHSF on June 7th instead of having a June meeting, since it is on the same day as your regular meeting? Also, the July meeting is scheduled for July 5th. Ms. VonWald proposed moving the July meeting to June

28th and attending the EHSF meeting on June 7th instead of having a June meeting. There was a motion to attend the EHSF meeting on June 7th instead of having a June BNOA meeting and to move the July meeting to June 28th. The motion was seconded. It was voted unanimously to do this.

Dates to remember:

May 7th – Older Americans Month Proclamation at the City Council meeting at 8pm

June 4th – Elder Abuse Awareness Proclamation at the City Council meeting at 8pm

August 23 – Seniors vs City Softball Game, Hidden Valley Sports Park, 4pm

NEW BUSINESS – none

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS - None

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

May – Personal Safety Nets

June 7 – EHSF meeting at SBCC at 7:30am-9:30am

June 28 – (July meeting rescheduled) – Bel-Red corridor – Project status update

Ms. VonWald also stated that the City of Bellevue budget process is starting for the next two year budget (2013/2014 biennium). Public Safety and Mobility were ranked as the 1st and 2nd priorities by Bellevue residents.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.